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|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Kildee | Millender- | Schakowsky |
| Kilpatrick | McDonald | Scott |
| Klink | Miller, George | Serrano |
| Kucinich | Mink | Stark |
| LaFalce | Moakley | Stupak |
| Lantos | Murtha | Thompson (MS) |
| Lee | Nadler | Thurman |
| Levin | Oberstar | Tierney |
| Lewis (GA) | Obey | Towns |
| Lofgren | Olver | Traficant |
| Lowey | Owens | Udall (CO) |
| Markey | Payne | Udall (NM) |
| Martinez | Pelosi | Vento |
| Mascara | Rahall | Visclosky |
| Matsui | Rodriguez | Waters |
| McDermott | Roybal-Allard | Watt (NC) |
| McGovern | Rush | Waxman |
| McKinney | Sabo | Weiner |
| McNulty | Sanchez | Wexler |
| Meehan | Sanders | Woolsey |
| Meek (FL) | Sawyer | |

NOT VOTING—13

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Ackerman | Hutchinson | Watts (OK) |
| Becerra | LaTourette | Wynn |
| Berman | Luther | Young (FL) |
| Brown (CA) | Simpson | |
| Gephardt | Slaughter | |

□ 1907

Mr. HILLIARD changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. MEEKS of New York and Mr. LAMPSON changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, if I were present, I would have voted "yea" on final passage of H.R. 833, the Bankruptcy Reform Act.

Stated against:

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast a vote on final passage of H.R. 833 due to a family emergency. However, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, and 115.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" or "aye" on rollcall votes 108, 110, 111, 112, 113, and 114 and "no" or "nay" on rollcall votes 109 and 115.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 115, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 833, BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 1999

Mr. GEKAS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 833, the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, cross-references, and punctuation, and to make such stylistic, clerical, technical, conforming, and other changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House in amending the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. NORTHUP). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

SUPPORT A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CONFLICT IN THE BALKANS AND HOW THAT CONFLICT SHOULD BE CONDUCTED

(Mr. BATEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BATEMAN. Madam Speaker, we have stumbled through, I think, inept decision-making into a conflict in the Balkans. Last Wednesday we debated that issue. At the end of the day we had declared no policy, approved no policy, condemned no policy. I think that is an evasion of our moral, if not constitutional, responsibility.

So today, I will introduce a resolution which seeks to declare a policy with reference to that conflict and how it should be conducted, as well as how the cost of it should be borne and shared among our allies, and how we should deal with the question of indicted war criminals as a part of any agreement, and termination of that conflict. I solicit the review and hopefully the co-patronage of this resolution by my colleagues.

The United States Congress has been debating whether and to what extent our country should be involved in the conflict between NATO and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. I cannot find words strong enough to condemn the miserable performance of the Congress thus far. No American to date knows whether the Congress of the United States approves or condemns the policy of the Commander in Chief. Our fellow citizens will not know, because we as their collective national leadership have steadfastly refused to either approve or disapprove, condemn or condone, any policy. We have done this even in the context of a solemn debate by some about our constitutional responsibility and the War Powers Act.

Last week we ensured that the House of Representatives would bear no responsibility for the military action against Yugoslavia. We declared no policy, we disapproved of no policy. We didn't accept the reality that our nation has led the NATO alliance into a conflict. By a majority vote, we asserted that our Commander in Chief could not commit ground forces—whatever that means—without our specific prior approval. We then by a tie vote failed to approve even the continuation of the ongoing conflict into which we had been injected by our President.

I cannot tell you how much I have agonized over the sorry, inept, and clumsy failure of those who determine our national security policy in this latest phases of the ongoing Balkan crisis. Even the prior Administration, so confident during the Gulf War, failed to lead when it could and should have in the Balkans.

Without direction or credible leadership we have become deeply embroiled in this conflict.

We are without any clear delineation of the reason or importance of our being involved or of what represents a successful conclusion to the conflict. We are in this conflict with an announced policy that we will not commit ground forces, a position that serves our enemy's interest but undermines our objectives, whatever they are. I submit that it is the height of irresponsibility for the Congress of the United States to abdicate their responsibility to either approve or disapprove a Kosovo policy.

If the President and his, to use the most charitable reference, "national security team" have produced a national policy disaster, we should say so. We should not evade the issue. If the administration is correct in its assertion that the barbarism attributed to the leadership of Yugoslavia demands a military response, we should endorse this conclusion.

There are those whose political judgement tells them Congress should not act on this matter, because if we do, we might have to assume responsibility. I categorically object to any such notion. Our President may have failed to call upon the Congress to support his policy in the Balkans, but the Congress has a duty to speak out anyway. We have a constitutional duty whether the President ask us for our approval or not. Perhaps the constitutional duty is higher when the President seeks to evade us and his policy is muddled.

Last Wednesday, I voted no on all four resolutions regarding the conflict against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. I seriously considered voting no even on the Rule regarding our debate, because under the Rule, we could not make, approve or disapprove any policy. We trivialized the role of the Congress and that is fraught with dire consequences for the future.

The Congress of the United States makes policy and our politics ought to crystallize conflicting views of good or bad policy. Last week we failed in this. For this reason I am offering a joint resolution regarding the conflict in the Balkans.

The resolution is critical of how we came to the sorry choices before us, but recognizes that our country is confronted with certain realities which it must confront. The choice the resolution makes is to give congressional authorization to the ongoing military conflict against the regime of Slobodan Milosevic. It does not presume to give political guidance to how the conflict is waged and bespeaks a concern only that it be waged with sound military judgement, consistent with the earliest victory and least casualties.

Most importantly, it enunciates a policy and identifies goals, which if correct fully justify our involvement and leadership into this conflict. If not correct, clearly the resolution should not be supported and should fail. How dare we, on a matter of such consequence, stand by and declare neither war nor even any policy. Are not our armed forces entitled to know that their Congress approves or disapproves of what they are doing on the orders of our Commander in Chief? Certainly they must hope that the elected representatives of our people will not choose to abdicate their responsibility.

The resolution I offer speaks to the financial burden of this conflict in the bosom of Europe, and asserts a policy that the costs should be fairly allocated among the entire NATO alliance.